

THE PARSON'S TALE

A Fish Story Which Is True in Every Particular.

Every Lover of Romance Will Take a Singular Interest in the Simple Narrative of This Truly Truthful Man.

The minister's daughter was entertaining a few girl friends at the parsonage the other evening, and after the latest bit of gossip had been discussed over dainty cups of the oriental beverage the father of the hostess, says the Chicago Daily News, was unanimously elected to entertain them with a story.

"Some one has said," began the good man, "that the unexpected always happens; and as a fish story is about the last a parson would be expected to relate, I will endeavor to entertain you with one, the truth of which I can vouch for.

"It was one summer evening in the gathering twilight," said he, "while standing on a rustic bridge which spanned a famous trout spring near her father's house, that I won from the girl I had long loved the promise to be my wife. She was just the least bit inclined to flirt and I had a rival in the field; so, to make the affair more binding, I drew from her hand a ring which she had often declared she would only give to her betrothed lover and transferred it to my own finger.

"It was my mother's engagement ring," she said, half playfully and half in earnest, "and there is a bit of superstition connected with it. So long as you keep and wear it we are engaged; but if you lose it or part with it in any way the engagement is broken. So, as you value my love, take good care of it."

"A week later she went away on a visit, and then my only consolation was to haunt that favorite spot on the bridge which had been our trysting place. Once while leaning over the railing and thinking of our engagement I took from my finger the treasured ring and gazed fondly on the initials—hers as well as her mother's—engraved within. In attempting to replace it, however, the golden circle fell from



THERE WAS A SUDDEN JERK.

my grasp and disappeared in the waters below.

"Only a youthful lover under such circumstances can imagine my feelings. Day and night I mourned, disconsolate, my lost treasure. Yet, strange to say, I had a strange presentiment or intuition that the ring would be restored to me, though by what means I had not the faintest idea.

"Not long after, while fishing in the same stream a short distance below the bridge, I fell to thinking of the lost ring. If I could only fish it up—and just then there was a quiver, a sudden jerk and a struggle at my line, and after some play I drew out a fine trout. At the sight of him the thought suddenly and uncontrollably flashed into my mind that the ring—my lost ring—was to be found in his body. I cannot account for the feeling, but I know it was heightened to almost a conviction, when, upon grasping the trout, I perceived on one side of his body a singular protuberance and felt something like a hard, foreign substance beneath the surface.

"Eagerness had made me cruel, and, seizing my pocketknife, I cut off the victim's head, and then with unsteady hands I ripped the body open. My knife grated against something hard, and—yes, I caught the glitter of some shining substance. Imagine my feelings when, with beating heart and trembling hand, I drew forth—

"The ring! The ring!" breathlessly exclaimed the girls in chorus.

"No, indeed," continued the truthful narrator, "only a piece of green glass. The ring never was found."

"And what became of the girl, papa?" eagerly asked his daughter.

"For the past 17 years, my dear," the good man replied, as with a merry twinkle in his eyes he glanced toward the other end of the table, "she has filled with satisfaction the pleasant but somewhat responsible position of mother to you."

Hanged Herself in Public.

A strange story comes from China of the public suicide of a Chinese woman at Foo Chow. She resolved on the deed after the death of her husband, and informed the public of her intention. The taotai endeavored to prevent her, and on account of typhoon and floods the suicide was twice postponed, but all efforts failed to divert the woman from her purpose, and, bedecked in her finest clothes, she publicly hanged herself on a platform before which stood several hundred spectators.

THE MORMON FAITH.

Polygamy Still Is Its Keypoint and Strongest Hold.

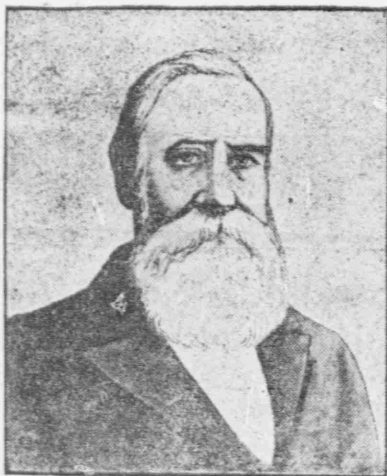
So Says Dr. Sarah Elliott Who Is About to Make a Tour for the Purpose of Spreading Anti-Polygamy Propaganda.

Dr. Sarah J. Elliott, of Utah, is about to make a tour of Colorado for the purpose of spreading an anti-polygamy propaganda. She is a deaconess of the Episcopal church, and is lecturing for the league that is urging a constitutional amendment to prohibit polygamy.

"Two thousand Mormon elder priests," said Dr. Elliott to a New York World correspondent, "are now in every state and territory of the union, seeking by misrepresenting the actual conditions and teachings of the Mormon faith to create outside of Utah public sentiment more advantageous to the system than it could possibly secure if the whole truth were known. In view of these and many similar facts, I am appealing to the patriotic women of our country who successfully labored to prevent a polygamist from entering congress.

"In Utah there is no separation of church and state. The church of the Latter Day Saints, or the Mormon church, is so magnificently organized they are prepared to work anywhere. The subject of polygamy is never mentioned in the missionary work of the elders, who are sent out all over the world to make converts; but when the women and girls are landed in Salt Lake they are informed that only through marriage can their souls be saved, and blindly they walk into the trap. In every other state polygamy is a degradation, while in Utah it is an exaltation. The Mormon's system of ethics has produced abnormal women.

"A premium of 160 acres of land is offered as an inducement to women and young girls to leave their homes and country and settle in Utah; in

JOSEPH H. SMITH.
(President of the Church of Latter Day Saints.)

this manner many tracts of land are acquired by the man who marries four or more wives. It was generally supposed that the unseating of Roberts in congress would be a deathblow to polygamy, but this is a mistaken idea, as the power of the Mormon church is growing stronger all the time. As Senator Hoar remarked, there is growing in Utah a power so great that unless we check it now the time will come when we will have to fall down and worship it.

"Many years ago, when George Q. Cannon was indignantly turned down in congress and returned to Utah, Brigham Young, in his sermon to his followers in the tabernacle, said: 'Never mind; we will have a voice yet in the American congress and force polygamy down their throats.'

"In violation of the pledges of Mormon leaders made before statehood, the president of the Mormon church is now living publicly in his official residence in Salt Lake City with the last acquisition to his polygamous household. An effort to secure his prosecution has failed. Many who at first obeyed the law and ceased their unlawful cohabitation have followed the president's example and resumed their polygamous relationships, and are having children by plural wives.

"This polygamous element is the dominant power in the church and in the politics of the state, as public sentiment against the state laws makes them practically unenforceable. It is almost impossible to induce officials elected by Mormon votes to enforce the law. The polygamous priesthood, thoroughly organized, directs the conscience of the Mormon people, and through political influence thus acquired controls the official conduct of the office holders.

"Not only have a number resumed polygamous relationship, but the best of circumstantial evidence points to the unmistakable conclusion that Apostles John W. Taylor, George Teasdale, the late Apostle Abram H. Cannon and other prominent Mormon ecclesiastics have taken new plural wives.

The Cow and the Camera.

Here is a sagacious cow that attended promptly to a little matter of business, and deserves a blue ribbon. At Bloomfield, N. J., the other day an amateur photographer stole a march on some girls as they were frolicking in a stream on the Dodd estate. The camera was all adjusted for an exposure, and the photographer ducked beneath the black cloth. A cow apparently took in the situation just in the nick of time, and backed the camera fairly and sent it flying. Then she turned to the man and chased him over a rail fence, standing guard until the girls had donned their clothes and escaped.

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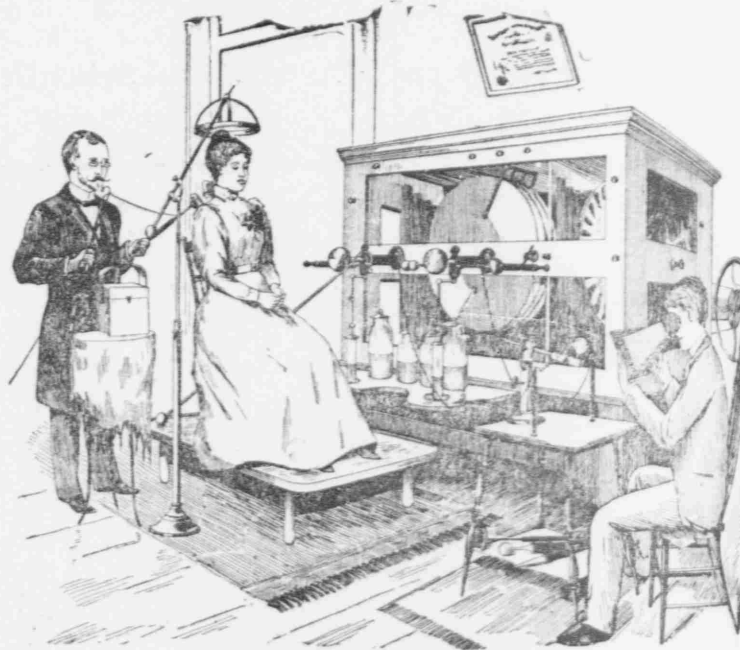
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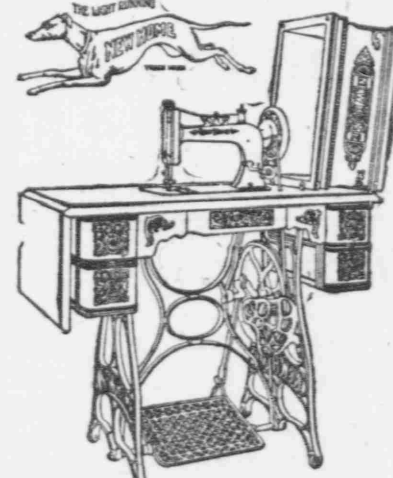
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Circus Man's Witty Speech.

George Sawyer, the English circus man, is a wit as well as an expert equestrian. On being asked what steps he would take should a certain wild beast break out of his cage, he promptly replied: "Blamed long ones."

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